



The Spoke

Thank You, Ladies



Sandy Hemstead's comments to the club, "This is my last meeting [as president] and I can't believe the year has gone by so fast. I thoroughly enjoyed being president of this awesome club. You all make it so easy to be your president. It's incredible how many people have volunteered.

You guys have all been great and its been a wonderful year."

George Cohan said, "A year of your life as president of this club takes a lot of effort, a lot of hard work. You've really got to be dedicated and Sandy has done a terrific job!"

Here Cometh Tom!!



Outgoing President Sandy Hemstead presents the gavel to incoming President Tom Briers.

Rotary International President

K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran
Rotary Club of Columbo, Sri Lanka

District 6960 Governor

Cyndi Doragh
The Rotary Club of Ft. Myers South

Area 3 Assistant Governor

Sandra Hemstead
The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

2015-2016 Club Officers

President	Thomas B. Briers
President-Elect	Steven Slachta
Secretary	Jon McLeod
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III
Assoc. Sgt.-at-Arms	

Board of Directors

Sandra Hemstead, Tom Briers,
Steven Slachta, Jon McLeod

2013-2016

Sara McCallum, Gary Price,
Kae Moore

2014-2017

Frank Mazzeo, Peter O'Flinn,
Susan Schmitt

2015-2018

Joe Murgalo, Jon Shaw,
Claudie Delgado-Feeney

Trustees of The Foundation of The Rotary Club of Bonita Springs

Nancy Ross, President; Jim Dati,
Secretary; Richard Garner, Treasurer;
Ray Faubion, Ed Houck, John
Mathes, Guy Quinn, Trustees

LAST WEEK'S MEETING

President **Sandy Hemstead** presided. **Addison Piotrowski** rang the bell and led the Pledge of Allegiance. AAG **Rick Perry** recited an almost flawless Four-way test.

Mark Generales lived for 20 years in the Low Country of South Carolina and served as a County Commissioner. Mark said, "The South has changed so significantly. I was afraid what was going to happen is happening. [About the Charleston Church Massacre]. The focus is on flags, guns, and a lot of other things that really are not relevant to life in South Carolina... These folks are real Christians and forgave the shooter. South Carolina is state full of God, full of love, not the racist state you hear so much about." Mark then offered a special invocation.

Sandy recognized outgoing members of the Board of Directors, **Greg Holtz, Bobbi Bird, Peter Zahner, Jason Dolle, Brian Olitsky,** and **Scott Anderson**. Thank you very much for your service to the Club.

Immediately after the July 1st meeting there will be a clean-up work session at the Wonder Gardens. Please come prepared to start, shorts are OK, jeans are not.

Fred Partin announced that he has only one week before retirement from BSU. He introduced his guest, **John Jenkins**, who will be his replacement as Executive Director of

Bonita Springs Utility



We had a special treat with **Bobbi Bird** joining **Ron Anderson** to sing "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain".

Brian Olitsky still needs more volunteers as course monitors and traffic directors for the StarSpangled

5K. This only requires a short time commitment. The race will be over by 8:30. Brian and his co-conspirator dentists have worked out a special **Smile Mile** for the race.

Sandy recognized **Carl Nickel** for his outstanding dedication in manning the front desk. "He's always here and always has a smile". She presented Carl with a framed picture from his "Cheesehead", Member Moment presentation.



Sara McCallum called **Tom Briers** to the front in order to present him with a Paul Harris +2 award. Sandy said, "Tom is an incredible Rotarian and demonstrates all of the elements we look for in a wonderful human being and a wonderful Rotarian. Congratulations."

From Communist to Conservative

Ismael Hernandez grew up in Puerto Rico in a communist family. His father, Juan, was a very committed and intellectually sophisticated Marxist.

“I will never forget the night,” says Ismael, “when my mom was inconsolably crying and ran outside to plead with FBI agents stationed in front of the house. They were there every night. She could not take it any longer and asked them to please leave. I never saw them again. I hated America for my mother’s tears.”

“My father often told me that America was the enemy of humanity and it was my duty to destroy her. I wholeheartedly believed it.”

His spiritual quest and antagonistic politics seemed to merge nicely once Ismael made the decision to join the Jesuit order and become a priest. A great disappointment for him was not being sent to Nicaragua to study philosophy. “This was during the time when seven Jesuits were murdered in Nicaragua. I remember how deeply we all mourned them and how angry we were at America.”

Eventually, Ismael, still a rabid Communist, decided to leave the order. He then took a great and decisive step and came to America. Of all places, Ismael decided to come to Mississippi to study at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg.

Ismael’s experience there began to slowly shatter the preconceived notions about America that were the basis of his worldview.

“Even as a foreigner barely able to speak English and with antagonism in my heart, America embraced me and gave me opportunities I never dreamt of.”

Thanks to his excellent grades and strong classroom performance, he was offered a full assistantship and a full scholarship, including room and board.

“I began to read what I would have never read before and re-read what I had never truly understood: the Founding Fathers, the Federalist Papers, all those ‘evil white men.’ I also discovered the penetrating scholarship of Dr. Thomas Sowell, who shattered my views on race.”

Ismael also discovered the ideas of Catholic priest Father Robert Sirico, and his Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Freedom. “Father Sirico spoke in a language I had never heard before; a language about human freedom, limited government, and entrepreneurship.

“I learned that the leftist politics that many in social justice held, were actually counterfeit compassion.”

Ismael finished his master’s degree in political science and moved to Fort Myers, Florida with his wife, Crystal. Soon he became the executive director of the African Caribbean American Catholic Center (AFCAAM) in the Catholic Diocese of Venice. There, Ismael began to **implement his vision of true compassion based on self-reliance, individual freedom, and a rejection of dependency and entitlement.**

Ismael became a lecturer with Father Sirico’s Acton Institute and became very involved in the affairs of the community. This activity eventually led to the creation of the **Freedom & Virtue Institute** for the purpose of mobilizing people to learn and defend the values he has come to embrace.



Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, chartered November 3, 1978. The Club may be contacted through its mailing address P.O. Box 474, Bonita Springs Florida 34133. You can reach **The Spoke** through its email BonitaSpoke@aol.com.
Scott Gerrish issue editor.

President	Thomas B. Briers
President-Elect	Steven Slachta
Secretary	Jon McCleod
Treasurer	Bob Lombardo
Sergeant-at-Arms	George M. Cohan III

Last Week: Rex Sims drew
A ♥ to win \$100.



The 50/50 is \$800±

Rotary Sings: *The National Anthem*

Oh say, can you see,
By the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
At the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
Thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd,
Were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night
That our flag was still there.
Oh say, does that Star-spangled Banner
Yet wave,
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?

The 4-Way Test
of things we think, say or do.

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?

This Week:

Tom Briers
Club Assembly

Birthdays

Hank Hochstetler June 27
Jim Dow (rr) June 30

This Morning's Invocation

As we commemorate the courageous Declaration of Independence from which we have benefited, we acknowledge that real freedom is a fundamental spiritual gift to us.

Keep us from interpreting liberty as unrestrained freedom to be irresponsible. Help us to understand and accept responsibility associated with chosen behavior.

Make us zealous to preserve our heritage and our traditions, to value highly the moral and spiritual foundations of our nation, of Rotary International, and our club.

Help us to use our freedom to do good for others rather than for personal gain.

We are grateful for the freedom to assemble without fear, to pursue honorable vocations without hindrances, and to be involved in whatever we choose for our families and ourselves.

Bless the gifts of food and fellowship today, that through both we might be sustained in service. Amen.

Your finances. Your future. *Our focus.*

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